

Racism

GALATIANS 3:28 - *There is neither Jew nor Greek [racial distinction], there is neither bond nor free [social distinction], there is neither male nor female [sexual distinction] ; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Many passages in the Bible say that our loving God looks right through our exteriors and sees what is on the inside. He treats each of us the same even though we are packaged in different sizes, shapes, and colors. Our bodies are nothing but temporary containers for our souls.

Racism is the opposite of God's viewpoint described above. Racism is obsession with the exterior packaging to the point that the content of the package is ignored. We have all witnessed this arrogant attitude of superiority over others that some people have. They think they deserve special treatment based on their skin color or inherited ethnic traits. But such arrogance eats away at their souls like cancer, makes them miserable, and robs them of any chance of being happy.

Misery loves company, and the driving force of hatefulness, bitterness, and violence is very contagious. Each one of us can be influenced in a negative way when we come into contact with racial animosity. Added to this is the problem of the government trying to solve racial tensions through legislation.

LAWMAKERS CANNOT LEGISLATE AWAY HATE AND BIGOTRY

The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights were clearly written without showing partiality and gave all Americans equal treatment under the law. In reality, this principle was not realized until slavery was ended and civil rights were extended to all citizens. Our government was designed to be color-blind. It was prohibited from passing laws that discriminate against anyone or that give preferential treatment to anyone based on race, religion, or sex. And, it was founded upon God's example of justice that shows no partiality, whatsoever.

DEUTERONOMY 10:17 - *For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality...*

I TIMOTHY 5:21 - *I solemnly charge you...to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.*

We should expect our lawmakers to understand that hatefulness and bigotry in the hearts of people cannot be legislated away. Only through the efforts of churches and parents will discrimination and bias be removed from our nation. Laws must be totally objective and impartial toward all citizens without interfering with their right to privacy. No government can undo the wrongs done in the past by imposing racial hiring quotas, paying reparations, pursuing affirmative action, or granting special favors based on skin color. Turning past discrimination against some into present legalized discrimination against others has been boring even bigger holes into our ship that's already leaking. Has everyone forgotten **"Two wrongs do not make a right !"**?

GOOD INTENTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OFTEN BACKFIRE

While trying to reduce racial strife, our government has actually caused it to get worse.

- White students are denied entrance into universities while minority students with lower test scores are accepted. Because of this, many qualified students are bitter toward the universities, bitter toward the government for creating and enforcing such a policy, and they resent minorities in general.
- Employers are required to keep incompetent minority employees on the payroll. The Equal Employment and Occupational Commission, EEOC, will sue them for discrimination if they do not maintain their designated racial quota. Employers become angry and resentful.
- Housing and Urban Development, HUD, awards low-income families with government subsidized houses that are located in middle class suburbs. Many of these families are unable to keep up with their payments. They vacate their homes, and these turn into “crack” houses that attract undesirables. Then the whole neighborhood is ruined when residents, who are stuck with plummeting property values, find that they cannot give their homes away. Is it no wonder that they become angry with HUD, the government, and minorities?
- The government forces schools to “bus in” minority students in order to meet racial quotas. Resentment grows on all sides. Laws should protect the parents’ right to choose the schools their children will attend.

These are examples of how our government’s good intentions backfire. Shifting the maltreatment of one race onto another race has never solved the problem. Instead, it causes some minorities to lose contact with reality.

Some think they deserve special compensation for the injustices their forefathers experienced as slaves. They are demanding to be paid reparations for the unfairness and discrimination their great grandfathers endured. But why are Americans any more responsible for the acts of their slave-owning ancestors than Egyptians are for enslaving the Israelites?

National pride, not racial pride, is the glue that holds this country together. There was a time when people immigrated to this country, eager to learn our language and American culture. They were proud to be Americans. They were eager to speak English, learn our history, observe our holidays, dance to our music, and salute our flag. They became part of the mosaic that makes America what it is – a strong nation comprised of all kinds of people, united by national pride and love of America. Unfortunately, that ideal has been undermined.

Holidays of foreign countries are being celebrated in America’s streets with parades and fireworks. Patriotism fades as multiculturalism flourishes. What has happened? Pride in race has taken the place of pride in being an American. America is in grave danger because this misplaced, racial pride has divided us.

MARK 3:24 - *If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.*

HYPHENATED-AMERICANS PUT RACE BEFORE COUNTRY

Are Americans who insist on using hyphenated names, such as “African-American” or “Mexican-American,” truly patriotic? They have put race before country! A black American is an American, not an African, and a brown American is an American, not a Mexican.

The media portrays minorities and immigrants as victims of an oppressive society. Even illegal immigrants have begun to think of themselves as victims. Consequently, they demand and receive free education, free health care, food stamps, and welfare. The people of California overwhelmingly passed Proposition 187 which denied welfare benefits to illegal immigrants, and rightly so.

“U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer, an unelected magistrate, decreed that Proposition 187 was unconstitutional because immigration control is the business of the federal government.” So much for the will of the people. (*Samuel Frances. “Judicial Power Protects Elites, Not People,” Conservative Chronicle Vol. 10, #50.*)

Today, immigrants demand that schools teach their children in their native language rather than in English. Election ballots are presented in both English and Spanish. **“Our government has spent \$8 billion on ‘bilingual education’ which has resulted in a permanent non-English-speaking sub-culture.”** (*Phyllis Schlafly, “Bilingualism is the Wrong Way to God,” Conservative Chronicle Vol. 10, #52.*)

New York City students are taught in 82 languages, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized the danger of multiculturalism when he said, **“The one absolute certain way of bringing this nation to ruin would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities. We have but one flag. We must also have but one language, and that language is English.”**

RACISM PROMOTED

With the help of the media, a few scurrilous leaders have convinced many minorities that the white race is responsible for all of their troubles. To them, violent crimes committed by minorities out of rage over social injustice are to be excused. Shouldn’t standards for blacks and browns be the same as standards for whites? Well, guilty criminals are being set free every day by jurors who think that racial solidarity is more important than justice is.

Crime is not about poverty or a lack of good education. Crime is about a lack of character and integrity. The Bible teaches us that people become criminals because they were not taught respect for authority, or they reject it, both God’s and man’s.

Thoughtfulness, courtesy, and integrity should be instilled in children by their parents, not by the state. Don’t you think it’s about time for parents to take their job seriously, teaching their children to respect authority and to respect others?

In recent years the racial problems in this country have become worse. The Rodney King incident, the L.A. riots, the O.J. Simpson trial, and the million man march on Washington D.C. by black men, organized by Louis Farrakhan, have strained race relations to the breaking point. The media presented these issues in a way that inflamed rather than calmed the tensions between races, because the hotter the issue, the bigger the audience.

AMERICA, LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

People from all over the world still immigrate to America because this country has more opportunity to offer than any other. Page after page of employment opportunities for the skilled and unskilled are listed in newspapers every day. Ambitious people of every color are successfully starting their own businesses.

But many people have let opportunity pass them by because they have been deceived into believing that they are helpless victims of prejudice and that their survival depends on welfare checks or selling drugs. This is not true. There are many successful minorities like Walter Williams, syndicated columnist, Thomas Sowell, professor of economics, Ken Hamlin, radio broadcaster, Colin Powell, Secretary of State, and Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court Judge. There are also other lesser known, but still successful, minorities who work in corporations and who own their own business. They all faced the injustice of prejudice but did not allow it to become an excuse for failure.

STATUS QUO MUST BE CHANGED

What is the real solution to our racial problem? The only true answer is a spiritual one. Each person, regardless of race, must examine his or her own attitude towards others to see if it lines up with God's. Race relations will never improve until each of us recognizes that we are responsible to God alone for how we treat our fellow man.

MATTHEW 22:39 - *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Notice that the race of the neighbor is not mentioned because it does not matter. Furthermore, God expects us to obey this command regardless of the behavior of our fellow man or our government. We must not allow personal bigotry directed towards us or misguided government policies to become an excuse to ignore God's command and to lash out at others.

PROVERBS 1:7 - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

When each individual starts taking God seriously and obeys His Word, our racial problems will ease. Although we cannot force others to respect God's mandates, our own obedience will make a difference, and God will certainly honor it.

DEUTERONOMY 5:29 - *Oh that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me, and keep My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever.*

May our churches, parents, lawmakers, and citizens of all races heed this admonition and thereby help defuse the racial time-bomb that threatens us today.